The Sun.

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The Last Session of the Fifty-fifth Congress.

Congress will meet two weeks from to-day. Between that date and the fixed date of adjournment, on March 4, there are only thirteen weeks for the legislative work of the session.

Besides the regular appropriation bills, some of which will require more than the ordinary time and labor on account of the expenditures made necessary by the war with Spain, there will be some other questions arising from the war which will demand attention.

Not among these questions marked "urgent" by common sense and patriotism is that of the system of government to be instituted in our new territory.

Philosophical statesmanship will be bulging and bursting with ideas on this subject when the Senate and the House assemble. Recent events have thrust upon Congress a task comparable in magnitude only with that of reconstruction after the civil war. But this task, fortunately, has not to be performed within the next fifteen weeks. It need not even be begun within that period. It need not distract the attention of the Fifty-fifth Congress from more immediate duties which will fully occupy the remaining weeks of its existence.

A premature discussion of schemes of territorial government in Porto Rico and in the Philippines, or of methods to be pursued in the administration of Cuban affairs, will surely do more harm than good. Those great questions should be approached only after the exact conditions of the problems have been ascertained by deliberate and thorough investigation.

Meanwhile, military government will meet all requirements in all of the islands.

Aladdin and Gamaliel.

The gigantic movement which has begun in Massachusetts will soon be thundering westward, sounding to this town its terrible approach.

The $100 raised by the Massachusetts Reform Club in a moment of excitement has not stayed the wave of imperialism. So a movement has been ordered. The Hon. ALADDIN ATKINSON has a plan for canvassing the country in the next two weeks and getting signatures to petitions asking the President "to turn from his present policy." Mr. ATKINSON, as we have already remarked, is persuaded that "the mass of the people are not in favor of annexation," and he expects to prove that part by a tempest of signatures within two weeks. Rather a short time for polling the country, but the Hon. ALADDIN ATKINSON is an active fellow. It will require great firmness on Mr. MCKINLEY'S part to refrain from turning when Mr. ATKINSON says "turn."

We learn from the Boston correspondent of the *Springfield Republican*, which continues to revolve rapidly on what would be its head, if it had any, that it "is expected to secure the coöperation of prominent men in every section." In the New England section the coöperation of prominent men has been obtained already. The Hon. ALADDIN ATKINSON is not only prominent but protuberant, and, side by side with him, commanding the sea with mop sternly upraised, stands our preter-prominent old friend with the stupendous name, the Hon. GAMALIEL BRADFORD.

Still, on the whole it will be prudent for the Massachusetts Reform Club to put up another hundred.

France's Tremendous Fiscal Burdens.

Although the Czar's proposal for a partial disarmament has not been received favorably in Paris, there is no European power which is more vitally interested than is the French Republic in lessening the strain imposed upon its resources by a huge military establishment. That is the conclusion to be drawn from the interesting statistics compiled by Mr. W. R. LAWSON for the current number of the *National Review*. Mr. LAWSON shows that taxation in France is already screwed up almost to the highest point of endurance possible in times of peace, and that she would, therefore, find it extremely difficult to meet the extraordinary exigencies which would arise in case of war with one of the great powers.

Few persons realize the extent of the financial burdens which have been laid on France during the last quarter of a century. The last contest with Germany, although it lasted but nine months, cost France more than did all the wars of the First Republic and First Empire, notwithstanding that these stretched over a period of twenty years. On the 1st of April, 1814, the sum total of the outstanding public debt represented a capital value of $252,500,000. On the other hand, the new loans issued in 1871 alone reached the aggregate of $265,000,000. During the sixteen years of the Bourbon Restoration, the public debt rose to $885,000,000, although there was little to show for it in the way of conquest or of glory compared with what NAPOLEON had secured. Even under LOUIS PHILIPPE, who was averse to spending money, the public debt expanded, and amounted to upward of $1,190,000,000 at the end of his reign. The Second Republic was the only Government in modern France which brought about or witnessed a reduction of the public debt: four years after the Revolution of 1848 this had been cut down by more than $86,000,000.

Very different was the experience of the Second Empire. What with internal extravagance and the cost of the Crimean, Italian and Mexican wars, the public debt which was left behind by NAPOLEON III. did not fall far short of $2,500,000,000. The outlay caused by the last German war and the Commune added about 60 per cent. to the debt inherited from the Second Empire. On Jan. 1, 1876, the amount of the outstanding *rentes* had a capital value of nearly $4,000,000,000. This, moreover, was only the funded portion of the debt, the annual interest charge on which was less than $150,000,000. More than $80,000,000, in addition, was required for interest on floating debt, terminable annuities, pensions, &c. In the budget for 1898 the sum appropriated "for the service of the debt" is upward of $250,000,000, of which the interest on the funded debt absorbs but little more than one-half. The annual provision for the various categories of the public debt now requires 36¼ per cent. of the revenue, and calls for $6.60 a year from every man, woman and child in the republic.

When we say that, in France, the national revenue now reaches $700,000,000, we give by no means a complete idea of the burden that rests upon the taxpayers. Local taxation amounts to at least half as much. The Communes, of which there are some thirty-six thousand, absorb fully $200,000,000 a year; the greatest of them, Paris, is exacting from its inhabitants $70,600,000 in the current twelvemonth. Then, again, there are the eighty-seven Departments, which, together, levy an income of $65,000,000, nearly equal to that of the city of Paris. We have thus a total for national and local taxation of $965,000,000; even if we deduct Post Office and telegraph receipts, State domain and other non-fiscal revenues, we have still a balance of nearly $900,000,000.

What proportion does the sum thus extracted by taxation bear to the whole national income? M. DE FOVILLE, who is one of the most eminent French authorities on finance, has calculated in *La France Economique* that the country's income, including all the earnings of French industry, commerce and finance and all the interest on invested capital, is somewhere between four and five billion dollars. If these figures are correct, it follows that almost 20 per cent. of the national income is appropriated by the State. M. LEROY-BEAULIEU assumes that the total income of the nation is somewhat larger, for he arrives at the conclusion, after a careful investigation, that the average rate of taxation in France represents about 15 per cent. of it. This is a proportion so near the danger limit that French statesmen have of late recognized their inability to keep pace with Germany in military expenditures. In 1877 the French Army had $108,000,000 spent on it; in the same year the German Army cost less than $94,000,000. In 1898, on the other hand, the estimates for the German Army amount to nearly $153,000,000, whereas France is able to lay out less than $126,000,000 on her military establishment. It follows that in comparison with Germany, France is growing weaker every year in respect of military efficiency.

It may be said that, oppressive as these fiscal burdens seem, France has borne them for years, and may have become used to them. Where, however, would she get the vast additional sums which would be needed for the prosecution of a war against one of the great powers? Such a contest would have to be financed, as was that of 1870, mainly by borrowing on a gigantic scale. But France would now enter the loan market on a very different footing. The starting point in 1871 was an existing debt of two and a half billion dollars. Now the existing debt is more than twice as large. Moreover, the revenue is inelastic, for, as we have seen, the limit of taxation is nearly reached.

It is extremely doubtful, therefore, whether it would now be possible to repeat the brilliant loan operations by means of which the German indemnity was paid and French soil was emancipated. Undoubtedly the day is past when France could lightly enter on a policy of adventure. M. DE FOVILLE, to whom we have referred, has warned his countrymen that, while France may be rich enough to pay for her past glories and her recent reverses, she can no longer afford the phantasies to which she is allured by the generosity of some and the ambition of others; by greed here and passion there.

The War and the Auxiliary Fleet.

For the first time since its formation the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers has had a war of our own to discuss, and this fact palpably dominated its annual meeting recently held. Some papers read there were founded on war experiences, and others drew illustrations from that source; there were topical discussions of questions regarding the working of engines and boilers during the war, and much of the information brought out was practical.

The two lines of professional work pursued by the members were blended happily by Mr. GRISCOM, the President, who developed in his opening address Sir N. BARNABY'S assertion that "no nation can maintain an efficient navy without a prosperous commercial marine to support it." For navy and army uses, he said, our Government bought or chartered this year about two hundred vessels of all sorts, from tugs to transatlantic liners, and the rapidity and effectiveness with which they were fitted out for war service was hardly less creditable to our shipbuilders than the designing and constructing of the navy vessels that achieved a world-wide fame.

The paper of Mr. W. P. STEPHENS on the steam yacht as a naval auxiliary in the war with Spain dealt with this same subject in detail. We used ocean-going tugs and steam yachts as tenders to the blockading fleet in the West Indies, for general work in the shoal harbors and rivers there, for picket duty offshore on our own coast, especially when there was fear of a Spanish fleet, and for harbor patrol duty to guard mine fields from garbage scows or coasting schooners and to enforce port regulations of all sorts. Twenty-seven steam yachts were procured, and while some were unsatisfactory or downright failures in sea work, others performed splendid service. The Gloucester and Vixen at Santiago became famous, but Mr. STEPHENS points out that the Mayflower, Scorpion and others did good work, though under circumstances attracting less attention.

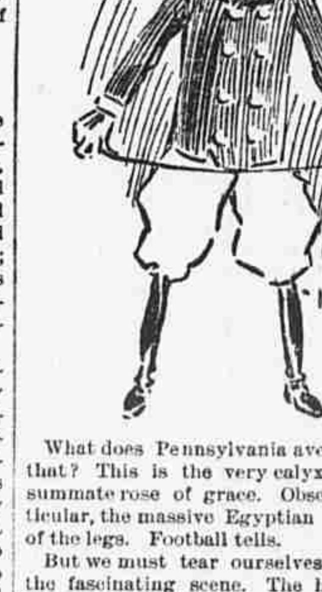
Of course the practical question now is as to how the Government may get still better use of the yacht fleet in another war. Many of the yachts it bought last summer were not planned for sea service, and could not carry the desired guns and ammunition or coal, or supply enough berthing space for the crews. They were without protection, generally had inadequate water tanks and no distilling apparatus, and their decks were not meant to withstand the shock of firing guns. Some even could not compensate for these defects by lightness of draught. Capt. MILLER, during the discussion of the subject, held that some of the yachts were very costly, and some could not make continuous speed enough, day in and day out. Still, Mr. STEPHENS does not have much faith in subsidizing yachts on condition of their being built with a view to conversion into war vessels, because the ordinary pleasure uses conflict with the war needs, and must control the owner's plans. He suggests that the Government could provide its own small craft for despatch, tender, picket, and harbor patrol service, with the speed and draught just right. Nevertheless, it will do well also to keep an eye on the yachting interests, for "while nothing can be done in the way of direct financial aid, it is a wise and sound policy to encourage yachting by the removal of all unnecessary and oppressive regulations." The owners, on their part, though they may not be willing to hamper speed and luxurious appointments for the sake of possible uses in war, perhaps hereafter will not disregard wholly this latter possibility, with its chances of selling the vessel to the Government at a price somewhat determined by its suitability for war purposes.

It seems clear that the war has benefited American shipbuilding. To begin with, the Government's purchase of many liners and other vessels made vacancies which, in some cases at least, will be supplied by adding new vessels, the ready money being available for that purpose. Next, our new possessions in the Antilles and the Philippines will stimulate trade, and that will call for more ships. Finally, there are now more war vessels, taking all classes together, under construction for the Government—over fifty in all—than ever before, Congress making liberal provisions for them at the last session. Hope, too, for the shipbuilding industry has been revived by orders for war vessels from Japan and Russia, while Mr. GRISCOM noted that this year ship steel has been exported to Great Britain on its merits as to quality and cost.

Introducing Goose Island Noonan.

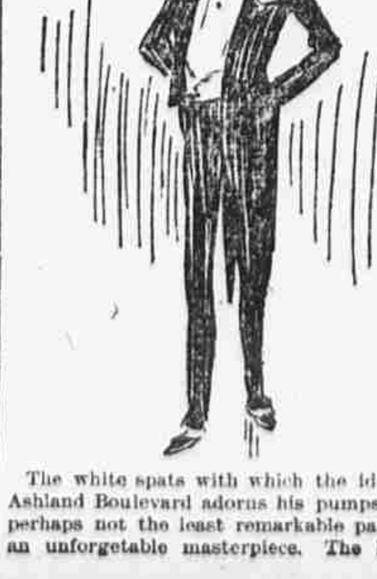
Many radiant figures were put out by the fall elections, and it seemed for a time as if the next Congress would be black with irrecoverable eclipse. JERRY SIMPSON has fallen a victim to the fell conspiracy of the Money Changers. WIND ALLEN will blow no more. The Capitol will not bloom during the Fifty-sixth Congress with the pink foliations of HAM LEWIS. Even the reticent BILL STEWART is threatened. Was genius to be banished from Washington? Were no romantic shapes to illume the details of public business? Fortunately the supply of greatness is a constant quantity and specimens never fail. Chicago has already filed a caveat on the Democratic statesman who is to represent the Fifth Illinois Congress district. His name is the Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN and his specialty is universal genius. We judge from the appreciative biography of him, compiled by the *Chicago Times-Herald*, that he has the courtier's, soldier's, scholar's eye, tongue, sword, and that in point of various accomplishment LEONARDO DA VINCI was a beginner, compared with him. Take a short tour in this continent of excellence.

The Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN is "37 years old, dark as a Spaniard, but good looking, nevertheless, a bachelor, one of the heaviest taxpayers on the great west side, a successful attorney and other things too numerous to mention," except in the Congressional Directory. He played football at the University of Michigan. He won a medal at boxing. He was captain of his college athletic team. He has been the champion billiard player of the Illinois Club. He is a skilled fencer. He "keeps a fine saddle horse, and when he rides forth on the boulevard he is strictly up to date in every detail." At this point public curiosity yells to be appeased. We have great pleasure in exhibiting a portrait of the Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN in his ordinary boulevard costume, up to date in every detail:



What does Pennsylvania avenue think of that? This is the very calyx of the consummate rose of grace. Observe, in particular, the massive Egyptian architecture of the legs. Football tells.

But we must tear ourselves away from the fascinating scene. The humble cataloguer should not aspire to be the critic. The Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN has been a Colonel and Governor ALTGELD'S chief of staff. A picture of him in his braids and buttons must be bright enough to bring real water into the eyes of the Chicago River. Possibly there is such a work in his "collection of paintings, embracing many examples of the old masters." He also has the second-best collection of "Napoleon portraits" in Chicago and "a library of some 2,000 volumes in which are hundreds of rare first editions." He "wears tailor-made garments; is somewhat fastidious in his selection of gloves and cravats; and knows the difference between a finger bowl and a loving cup." But clothes are only an accident with him, for, "whatever fame he may gain will be on account of his distinguished air, his irreproachable attire, his gallantry toward the fair sex, and, last of all, his forensic qualifications and genuine ability as a debater of economic questions." He possesses the "royal entrée" to "Ashland Boulevard society." The next portrait, apparently by VELASQUEZ, shows the Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN as a gleaming light in society:



The white spats with which the idol of Ashland Boulevard adorns his pumps are perhaps not the least remarkable part of an unforgetable masterpiece. The biographer adds this graceful summary of the Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN'S social charms:

"With all these accomplishments at his command, Congressman NOONAN has wealth enough to make him a desirable catch for the ambitious mammas at Washington. He owns enough acre property in Chicago to offer a site for a good-sized city. He is not averse to society, either, as nearly everybody can testify who has attended the charity balls and the grand opera. At these functions Col. NOONAN shines with no borrowed light. He is one of the observed throughout the evening, and he is not afraid of the public gaze."

Surely such a man must feel that he is giving the public gaze something worth looking at. We are not surprised to learn that the only man who ever had the heart to beat the Hon. GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN as a candidate for public office was a blind man.

Chicago's Big Ditch.

Since July, 1892, the city of Chicago, or, rather, the Drainage district embracing Chicago and forty-three square miles of adjoining territory, has been engaged in cutting from Lake Michigan to the head of the Des Plaines River a great canal, 40 miles long, 200 feet wide and 22 feet deep, through which the water of the lake will run to the Mississippi, and carry with it not only vessels, but the sewage of Chicago, which now empties into the Chicago River, spreads out into Lake Michigan, and pollutes the water which the city draws from the lake for domestic purposes. The task, it is expected, will be completed, or nearly so, during 1899, and the total expenditure on it will be over $30,000,000.

Upon the usefulness of the scheme to Chicago it is unnecessary to descant. It will furnish to the city a means of water communication with the whole immense Mississippi Valley, relieve it from the nuisance of a great and increasing volume of sewage, and forever protect its water supply from the pollution which at present imperils the health of its inhabitants. Now, just as the work, to which so much labor and money has been devoted, approaches its completion, opposition to it has sprung up and threatens to embarrass, if not to prevent, its further prosecution.

This opposition proceeds from two quarters. The cities situated upon the chain of great lakes, of which Lake Michigan is the head, fear that the diversion of water into the canal from Lake Michigan will so lower the level of the water in their harbors, as to prevent the access to them of deep draught vessels, while the people of Illinois, through which the canal will run, and of St. Louis, which will be near its outlet, declare that it will contaminate their water supply and be detrimental to their health. Engineers, however, say that the lowering of the water level produced by the canal will be not more than four inches, which is less than that often due to the effect of gales of wind, and sanitarians contend that the canal water, though polluted as it leaves Chicago, will purify itself as it flows on, and long before it reaches St. Louis will cease to be injurious. Nevertheless, Congress is to be asked to interfere and to take measures for preventing the apprehended mischief.

It is hardly likely that the completion of the canal, merely as a waterway, will be forbidden by legislation. Should it have the effect of lowering seriously the level of the lakes which it drains, that evil could be remedied by the use of locks or gates. Should it be found to do the mischief to health apprehended from making it a great trunk sewer for Chicago, a remedy can be found for that evil also. For instance, the sewage could be first carried into a reservoir, and the impurities in it allowed to settle before it enters the canal. Other devices will no doubt be contrived if necessity arises for them, and thus the canal will not need to be utterly abandoned.

Harvard Wakes Up.

There has been such a monotony of ill luck about Harvard's athletic efforts, outside of the gentler sports, for some years that her victory at football over Yale, following her victory over Pennsylvania, will attract no envy. Even the Cambridge freshmen, immemorially an unfortunate race, have walloped the Yale freshmen this year:

"ET '02, BRUTE!"

Yale has an almost uninterrupted tradition of success as against Harvard at football, and, for one reason or another, she has had the better system of training and developing her players. She possesses a large body of experts who are able to give a considerable part of their time to the education of her teams. There is or has been a solidarity of aim and effort and an intensity of college patriotism among her undergraduates which the diversity of interests and the size of the classes have somewhat interfered with at Cambridge. Ultimately the same centrifugal tendencies must prevail at New Haven as the university grows. There, too, the number of the undergraduates is becoming so large that something of the fervor of class feeling must be lost. Yale will always be fortunate, however, in not being subjected to the distractions of that illustrious city which overshadows or overshines Harvard.

Many doctors, learned and unlearned, have given their diagnosis of the confusion of method that has seemed to characterize the processes of athletic training at Cambridge, but the general truth of the matter may be stated thus: Yale has had a good machine and Harvard hasn't had any machine at all. This year Harvard has a machine, and the fumbling and fussy Mugwumpian method has been given up. The Hon. JACK MCMASTERS, formerly of Princeton, is a successful boss in the physical training line. The Hon. CAMERON FORBES is a successful boss in the scientific football line. The results have been unity of effort and precision of discipline, and victory.

Yale needs no encouragement. She will come up to the scratch smiling next year. We hope that on the water as on the land she may find in Harvard an equal.

Speaking of football, it seems to be in a state of especially high cultivation in the region where JONATHAN EDWARDS planted his iron heel.

An alleged interview with Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE, printed in a newspaper whose name is by no means a warranty of authenticity, represents him as saying:

"I begin to grow doubtful about the President having convictions upon any subject."

The *Boston Herald* likewise undertakes to discuss Mr. MCKINLEY'S mental characteristics. It remarks concerning him:

"Wherever it has been possible he has been neutral and colorless, allowing his actions to take the impression of the stronger of the various party influences with which he has been brought into contact. At times his disinclination to be self-assertive has been productive of serious dissatisfaction among those of his party who wish to have their Chief Magistrate adopt a bold and aggressive policy."

Against the opinions of these distinguished psychologists we should like to have the views of Admiral MONTOJO, Admiral CERVERA, Gen. TORAL, and, particularly, of Señor SAGASTA, who is a mind reader of much penetration and experience. Do they regard the Hon. WILLIAM MCKINLEY as a man without convictions, neutral and colorless, and unable to form a fixed purpose and to carry it out?

Suppose that the Senate and House of the Fifty-fifth Congress omit this year the formality of a week's vacation, for the holidays, a fortnight after assembling for work. Try the experiment as a war measure.

Prof. JOHN BRISBEN WALKER of the Typewritten University is infringing a patent in calling himself the "new Democracy." The new Democracy dates from 1896. Prof. WALKER is newer or newest, and yet he is the same old WALKER, a pure and perpetual fountain of joy.

Some learned Germans are going to measure the earth. The Emperor WILLIAM has agreed to take it if the measurements are satisfactory.

According to our Florida contemporary, the *Columbia County Citizen*, there was a remarkable Democratic success 'way down upon the Suwanee River the other day:

"Bathing herself in the waves of patriotism, the Democracy of old Columbia came gallantly to the front on last Tuesday and elected their sons by a handsome majority."

The more the Democracy of old Columbia review themselves, the more she will be astonished at their bath and front.

Wait a year until the smoke of this battle clears away. The people will cry out to be saved again.—*Jerry Simpson.*

And JERRY is ready to engage in the people-saving business again. Meanwhile he contents himself with branding 16 to 1 on his steers at Plutocrat Ranch, near Medicine Lodge.

THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.

The Whites Can Control the Negroes Easily if They Are Wise.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is distressing to read of sanguinary race conflicts in States of the South a generation after the emancipation and enfranchisement of the negroes; but the alarm I hear expressed lest trouble of that sort should spread extensively and dangerously in the early future is not justified. On the whole, the great social and political revolution at the South caused by the destruction of slavery has proceeded and is proceeding more satisfactorily than could have been expected. The violent encounters between the white and black races are sporadic only and give no indication of a general uprising on either side. At the meeting of the colored people at Cooper Union the other evening, I was glad to find that, though some vengeful feeling because of the occurrences in North Carolina and South Carolina was expressed, it was not encouraged by the directors of the meeting.

It seems to me, after a somewhat careful and extensive examination of the conditions at the South, that the whites have no reason to fear their ability to dominate those States politically without bitter conflict with the blacks, unless they part with their common sense and lose the balance of their judgment. They are the natural, the inevitable leaders, and they will be followed as such by the negroes, as ignorance generally follows enlightenment, if they exhibit political sagacity.

The trouble in the South is due largely to the fact that as things now are politically, whites and blacks are separated sharply on race and color lines. Naturally the negroes are Republicans, and the whites persist in supporting the Democratic party, no matter what may be its policy. The Populists went over to the Democracy in 1896, and the last election proves that they are remaining there. This is an abnormal political situation, and it is provocative of conflict with the negroes. A "solid South," that is, a solid Democratic South, is an evil no less for itself than for the whole Union. It means that the politics of this section is made solely by the race question—that the whites and blacks are arrayed solidly against each other in political partisanship; and the consequence must be bad all around. The political conflict and the race conflict are made one and indistinguishable. Free silver, Bryanism, and "white supremacy" are made inseparable, and thus the sympathy of the conservative North is rebuffed by the whites, and the South is looked upon as a political centre that imperils the prosperity of the country.

For a long time past that has seemed to me desperately bad policy for the Southern whites. More than in any other part of the Union their interests dictate their affiliation with the conservatism of the country, or, to put it plainly, with the Republican party. If they cease opposing the political sentiment of the negroes merely because it is the negro sentiment, and in giving their support to the Democratic party simply because it is not the party of the negroes, will not the colored people follow them as their natural leaders in a direction whither they themselves would go? As it is now, race discord is exasperated by political discord, and practically there is no Southern politics not made by the color line. The race soreness, therefore, is constantly irritated.

It may be said that in speaking thus I exhibit partisan bigotry and show cynicism in paying no heed to the obligation of political principle and conviction which makes the Southern whites Democrats, but actually there is no such compelling motive. The issues which distinguished men as Democrats have passed away. The tariff question has gone as a cause of party division; the South of to-day is no more free trade than the North; it is becoming a great manufacturing section. Not a single issue belonging to the Democracy of the past remains. Except for the solid South, there would be no hope for the Democratic party; yet the South, as the South, has no more reason for being solidly Democratic than has the West, and except for the color line, Southern whites have no motive to cling to Democracy other than prejudiced opposition to the Republican party merely because it is Republican, or the same motive which, as you have said, inspires the Democracy of the city of New York. Take away the Tammany Democracy and the Southern Democracy and what would be left of the party? Actually the Republican party in its great and general policies expresses Southern sentiment more truly than the Democracy. Yet Southerners cling to Democracy, and even the old Whigs of the political period prior to the war have gone over to it.

To sum it all up, the salvation of the South, social, political and material, requires its abandonment of false Democracy and its affiliation with the conservative sentiment of the country by the cordial acceptance of the Republican party, by means of which the dangers of its color line will be overcome and destroyed. The whites there have it in their power to harmonize race difficulties and to preserve the advantage they enjoy over the North in their cheap negro labor and their immunity from interference by the labor unions. At the bottom, the negroes respect and admire the Southern white man more than they do the Northerner, and apart from discord caused by political diversity the two races get on together even better than at the North. The negro, too, has advantages at the South which the white competition in labor denies him at the North. The climate suits him better and he is happier there. Why, then, is there any occasion for antagonizing him simply to worship the old fetich of Democracy?

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. A SOJOURNER.

Fruits of the Victory in the Northwest.

From the Vancouver Independent.

The victory in this State is a revolt against free silver, single tax, socialism and all other issues represented by the fusionists.

It is a slap at a dishonest Legislature that violated every pledge made to the people two years ago.

It is an upper-cut at the maligners and abusers of the President and his Administration. On Tuesday the State of Washington sent its message of loyalty and support to President McKinley.

It is the deathblow to a system of unequal and unjust taxation and an indorsement of an equal and just taxation.

The Late Spink Jakway.

From an Official Advertisement in the Sandy Hill Herald.

The people of the State of New York, to the heirs at law and next of kin of Spink Jakway, late of the town of Fort Ann, in the county of Washington, and State of New York, deceased, send greeting.

TESLA AND HIS WORK.

His Efforts in Various Fields of Investigation Described by Himself.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Had it not been for other urgent duties, I would before this have acknowledged your highly appreciative editorial of Nov. 13. Such earnest comments and the frequent evidences of the highest appreciation of my labors by men who are the recognized leaders of this day in scientific speculation, discovery and invention are a powerful stimulus, and I am thankful for them. There is nothing that gives me so much strength and courage as the feeling that those who are competent to judge have faith in me.

Permit me on this occasion to make a few statements which will define my position in the various fields of investigation you have touched upon.

I cannot but gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to earlier workers, as Dr. Hertz and Dr. Lodge, in my efforts to produce a practical and economical lighting system on the lines which I first disclosed in a lecture at Columbia College in 1891. There exists a popular error in regard to this light, inasmuch as it is believed that it can be obtained without generation of heat. The enthusiasm of Dr. Lodge is probably responsible for this error, which I have pointed out early by showing the impossibility of reaching a high vibration without going through the lower or fundamental tones. On purely theoretical grounds such a result is thinkable, but it would imply a device for starting the vibrations of unattainable qualities, inasmuch as it would have to be entirely devoid of inertia and other properties of matter. Though I have conceptions in this regard, I dismiss for the present this proposition as being impossible. We cannot produce light without heat, but we can surely produce a more efficient light than that obtained in the incandescent lamp, which, though a beautiful invention, is sadly lacking in the feature of efficiency. As the first step toward this realization I found it necessary to invent some method for transforming economically the ordinary currents as furnished from the lighting circuits into electrical vibrations of great rapidity. This was a difficult problem and it was only recently that I was able to announce its practical and thoroughly satisfactory solution. But this was not the only requirement in a system of this kind. It was necessary also to increase the intensity of the light, which at first was very feeble. In this direction, too, I met with complete success, so that at present I am producing a thoroughly serviceable and economical light of any desired intensity. I do not mean to say that this system will revolutionize those in use at present, which have resulted from the co-operation of many able men—I am only sure that it will have its fields of usefulness.

As to the idea of rendering the energy of the sun available for industrial purposes, it fascinated me early, but I must admit it was only long after I discovered the rotating magnetic field that it took a firm hold upon my mind. In assailing the problem I found two possible ways of solving it. Either power was to be developed on the spot by converting the energy of the sun's radiations or the energy of vast reservoirs was to be transmitted economically to any distance. Though there were other possible sources of economical power, only the two solutions mentioned offer the ideal feature of power being obtained without any consumption of material. After long thought I finally arrived at two solutions, but on the first of these, namely, that referring to the development of power in any locality from the sun's radiations, I cannot dwell at present. The system of power transmission without wires, in the form in which I have described it recently, originated in this manner. Starting from the two facts that the earth was a conductor insulated in space and that a body cannot be charged without causing an equivalent displacement of electricity in the earth, I undertook to construct a machine suited for creating as large a displacement as possible of the earth's electricity.

This machine was simply to charge and discharge in rapid succession a body insulated in space, thus altering periodically the amount of electricity in the earth, and consequently the pressure all over its surface. It was nothing but what in mechanics is a pump, forcing water from a large reservoir into a small one and back again. Primarily I contemplated only the sending of messages to great distances in this manner, and I described the scheme in detail, pointing out on that occasion the importance of ascertaining certain electrical conditions of the earth. The attractive feature of this plan was that the intensity of the signals should diminish very little with the distance, and, in fact, should not diminish at all, if it were not for certain losses occurring, chiefly in the atmosphere. As all my previous ideas, this one, too, received the treatment of Marsyas, but it forms, nevertheless, the basis of what is now known as "wireless telegraphy." This statement will bear rigorous examination, but it is not made with the intent of detracting from the merit of others. On the contrary, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the early work of Dr. Lodge, the brilliant experiments of Marconi, and of a later experimenter in this line, Dr. Slaby of Berlin. Now, this idea I extended to a system of power transmission, and I submitted it to Helmholtz on the occasion of his visit to this country. He unhesitatingly said that power could certainly be transmitted in this manner, but he doubted that I could ever produce an apparatus capable of creating the high pressures of a number of millions of volts, which were required to attack the problem with any chance of success, and that I could overcome the difficulties of insulation. Impossible as this problem seemed at first, I was fortunate to master it in a comparatively short time, and it was in perfecting this apparatus that I came to a turning point in the development of this idea. I, namely, at once observed that the air, which is a perfect insulator for currents produced by ordinary apparatus, was easily traversed by currents furnished by my improved machine, giving a tension of something like two and a half million volts. A further investigation in this direction led to another valuable fact, namely, that the conductivity of the air for these currents increased very rapidly with its degree of rarefaction, and at once the transmission of energy through the upper strata of the air, which, without such results as I have obtained, would be nothing more than a dream, became easily realizable. This appears all the more certain, as I found it quite practicable to transmit, under conditions such as exist in heights well explored, electrical energy in large amounts. I have thus overcome all the chief obstacles which originally stood in the way, and the success of my system now rests merely on engineering skill.

Referring to my latest invention, I wish to bring out a point which has been overlooked. I arrived, as has been stated, at the idea through entirely abstract speculations on the human organism, which I conceived to be a self-propelling machine, the motions of which are governed by impressions received through the eye. Endeavoring to construct a mechanical model resembling in its essential, material features the human body, I was led to combine a controlling device, or organ sensitive to certain waves, with a body provided with propelling and directing mechanism, and the rest naturally followed. Originally the idea interested me only from the scientific point of view, but soon I saw that I had made a departure which sooner or later must produce a profound change in things and conditions presently existing. I hope this change will be for the good only, for, if it were otherwise, I wish that I had never made the invention. The future may or may not bear out my present convictions, but I cannot refrain from saying that it is difficult for me to see at present how, with such a principle brought to great perfection, as it undoubtedly will be in the course of time, guns can maintain themselves as weapons. We shall be able, by availing ourselves of this advance, to send a projectile at much greater distance, it will not be limited in any way by weight or amount of explosive charge, we shall be able to submerge it at command, to arrest it in its flight, and call it back, and to send it out again and explode it at will, and, more than this, it will never make a miss, since all chance in this regard, if hitting the object of attack were at all required, is eliminated. But the chief feature of such a weapon is still to be told, namely, it may be made to respond only to a certain note or tune, it may be endowed with selective power. Directly such an arm is produced, it becomes almost impossible to meet it with a corresponding development. It is in this feature, perhaps, more than in its power of destruction, that its tendency to arrest the development of arms and to stop warfare will reside. With renewed thanks, I remain, very truly, yours,

NEW YORK, Nov. 19, 1898. N. TESLA.

IRISH IN OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

A Correspondent Who Doubts That They Fought in Any Great Numbers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will THE SUN, which is read by all intelligent persons, settle a disputed point in our history by printing some figures which dispose of the whole business? The statement has been made by Mr. Michael Davitt in the British Parliament, by the Rev. Dr. Stafford of Washington in a lecture, and in a late issue of *Collier's Weekly* and by many ill-informed persons, that one-half of the Revolutionary army was made up of Irishmen. There is no record of the number of aliens of any kind in our population until the census of 1820, nor any record of the number of Irish until the census of 1850, when there were in round numbers 966,000 Irish in a population of 23,000,000. So that the number of Irish in this country at any time before that can only be approximated. Yet figures and facts are available which make that approximation practically accurate. There is no complete roster of the Revolutionary army, but on the imperfect lists which remain there are very few Irish names. Of the 29 men who held at various times the rank of Major-General in the Revolutionary army two were Irish. Of the 63 men who held the rank of Brigadier-General, five and possibly six were Irish. There were more general officers of English than of Irish birth in the American Revolutionary army.

The statistics of the Catholic Church afford a very safe basis to go upon in estimating the Irish in our early population. At the recent meeting at Washington of the Young Men's Catholic Union, Mr. O'Neill of Massachusetts delivered a carefully prepared address, in which he said that in 1696 there were but seven Catholic families in New York—then the second town in the colonies. This proves that up to the beginning of the seventeenth century the Irish immigration was practically nothing. It must be remembered that, during the seventeenth century, only a part of the Irish people spoke the English language. Mr. O'Neill then stated that in 1790, when Archbishop Carroll became the first American Archbishop, there were but 30,000 Catholics in the whole United States. If two-thirds of this number were Irish—which is a liberal allowance—and one-third of the Irish in this country were Protestants—which is more than a liberal allowance—there could have been only 30,000 Irish in a population of 3,000,000 in 1790, fifteen years *after* the outbreak of the Revolution. This population could never have furnished one-half of the 394,064 enlistments of all sorts during the Revolution. Of course, not so many men were engaged, as there were large numbers of re-enlistments.

The sole warrant for this statement about one-half of the Revolutionary army being Irish is one Galloway, who, for reasons of his own, elected to do a little romancing before a parliamentary commission. After making this astounding statement, a page or two further on he was asked his reason for thinking so. He replied: "I judge that by the number of desertors." I am informed of this by a correspondent who refers to No. 2,094 in volume 24 of Stephen's facsimile of documents relating to America between 1773 and 1883. Pray let THE SUN forbid in future this ridiculous declaration about one-half of the Revolutionary army being Irish. The proportion was somewhere between 5 and 7 per cent., corresponding with the number of general officers and with Mr. O'Neill's accurate estimate.

NEW YORK, Nov. 20. AN AMERICAN.

The Appeal to the American People.

From the New York Times.

José M. Gomez has sent to Admiral Sampson, who sent it to THE SUN, a pathetic letter. He writes from the district of Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, "in the name of women and children, of the aged and of invalids—of whole families whose destruction is certain if a generous hand is not soon extended to them."

Never had these unfortunates suffered so much, never had there been so many sorrowful episodes, and never had the threatening wave terrorized them as now, when peace with Spain is already signed and when the island of Cuba is under the protection of the country of Washington.

Admiral Sampson himself says that "dire want is more widespread than at any time before." This is an appeal that calls for prompt action by the Government. It has the means of knowing exactly where this suffering exists, and of relieving it. If it has not the money available—which is improbable—a word from the President to the people would secure all that was needed. It will be a shame if we leave the people we have freed to die of starvation.

From the Baltimore American.

Admiral Sampson transmits to THE SUN an earnest appeal for help for the Cubans. "The war has ceased," he says in his letter, "but the poor have nothing to eat, and the desperately poor include a large majority of the inhabitants of the country. There is no money coming into the country, no work is being done, and the poor can secure no employment. Until the United States take military control of the island, and commerce and agriculture are thereby revived, the poor must be fed." THE SUN appeals for "food for the starving, clothing for the naked, medicine for the sick." This appeal must be answered by the generous people of this country.

The Roosevelt Street Ferry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Thanks are due you for the publication of "H. W. P.'s" letter calling attention to the go-as-you-please system of the Union Ferry Company on the Roosevelt street line. A more flagrant violation of franchise obligations it would be difficult to imagine. Not only do the boats not run on any specific time, but the ferry-house arrangements—or lack of them—constitute a standing danger to public health and safety.

On the New York side two ticket-punchers do the work of five formerly engaged, and in consequence crowding becomes inevitable. Inside the ferry-house the atmosphere is such that a live Board of Health would not tolerate for a day, and here the commuter stands in a jostling crowd awaiting the arrival of the non-scheduled boat. Sometimes he is lucky and has only to wait five minutes, but oftener he stands there more than a quarter of an hour, during which time the ferryhouse is packed.

By a beautiful arrangement the boats enter no particular slip as formerly, and hence when the boat comes in on the side opposite to that around which the crowd has formed, a mad rush occurs that is positively dangerous to the women.

The crush through the door is disgraceful, while the boats are overcrowded and smell foully. Beggars of all kinds pester the much-abused passenger.

The trip across is by various routes, that *via* Governors Island being the favorite of some of the pilots. Others take a direct course and arrive at the Brooklyn slip ahead of the previous boat. Again, others of economic turn of mind do not permit the use of the engines, but, with a favoring tide, simply allow the boat to drift across.

Altogether the system (!) evidences a mismanagement that is surely an anomaly in the greater city.

BROOKLYN, Nov. 19. WALTER LEFORT.

The Locomotive and the Cow.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Manifest destiny makes it apparent that the United States will keep the Philippine Islands, and its action will receive the cordial indorsement of its people. Every argument that has been, will be, or can be made against doing so might be amplified until the vocabulary of the English language was exhausted, yet they could not prevent or even delay it. The Philippine Islands belong to the United States, not only by reason of conquest, but because they are the rightful inheritance of the advanced civilization, energy and industry of the American people.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. EDWARD G. PINCKNEY.

Ninety-Eight a Year of Prosperity.

From Bradstreet's.

These valuable measures of business progress, bank clearings and railroad earnings, point to aggregate transactions in excess of all previous records, while returns of export trade prove that this country has maintained first place as a surplus food-providing nation. The American manufacturer is to be congratulated on the progress he has made in placing the country in the front rank as an exporter of finished products in competition with the most progressive and skilful of European nations. The value of an adequate foreign outlet has, perhaps, been best proved by the history of the rise of the United States as an exporter of goods which, but a few years ago, it was importing in large quantities. The settlement of this country's merchandise balances has caused a movement hither of gold surpassing all previous yearly records, adding to the country's resources unprecedented quantities of the great circulating medium. In nearly all lines of industry labor has been actively employed at remunerative wages, and the output of most of the country's industries has surpassed all records.